



WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Division of Workforce Solutions
Bureau of Partner Services

**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies**

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
CARES Call Center
Policy & Systems Communications Section

SUBJECT: New Food Stamp Policy For ABAWDS

BPS OPERATIONS MEMO

No.: 02-29

**File: 2810
2816**

Date: 4/24/2002

Non W-2 ☒ W-2 ☐ CC ☐

PRIORITY: High

CROSS REFERENCE: Food Stamp Handbook Appendix 08.08.00 – 08.08.03.01
FSET Manual Chapter 10

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

PURPOSE

This memo explains a new waiver that exempts food stamp (FS) recipients who are Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) from time-limited benefit work requirements.

BACKGROUND

The State of Wisconsin has received a waiver from Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) of federal regulations requiring time-limited FS benefit eligibility for ABAWDs who fail to meet minimum FS work participation requirements. The waiver was approved due to increased unemployment rates in many areas of Wisconsin where the majority of ABAWD food stamp recipients reside. The State of Wisconsin will be required to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver.

ABAWD Participation Requirements

Old Policy: ABAWDs who did not meet work participation requirements were subject to time-limited food stamp policies. After 3 months of non-participation in work requirements, ABAWDs were no longer entitled to receive FS during a set 36 month time period. In order to re-establish eligibility, ABAWDs were required to participate in work requirements for 30 days.

New Policy: Due to increasing unemployment rates over the past two fiscal years, Wisconsin has received a waiver to exempt ABAWDs from time-limited benefit regulations until March 31, 2003. The waiver will be reevaluated at that time. In order to provide adequate data to Food and Nutrition Services authorities, it will be necessary to continue to ensure that ABAWD status for recipients is recorded correctly on screen ABWD. However, it will no longer be necessary for eligibility workers to administer ABAWD “strikes” to individuals who are not meeting ABAWD participation requirements.

PROCEDURES

ABAWD food stamp participants continue to be mandatory participants in the FSET Program unless they are exempt due to hours of unsubsidized employment. FSET participation requirements remain unchanged and eligibility workers must continue to evaluate and administer FSET sanctions when appropriate. However, ABAWD time-limited participation requirements no longer need to be monitored and ABAWD strikes must no longer be imposed. Any ABAWD strikes that have been imposed may be deleted at any time.

If an ABAWD who has received 3 strikes reapplies for or re-requests FS benefits, all ABAWD strikes must be deleted and the individual must be allowed to participate in the FS Program if all other eligibility requirements are met. ABAWDs who have been denied FS due to exhausting their time-limited benefits must have their eligibility for FS redetermined at application, recertification, or at the time of re-request of eligibility.

CONTACT

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Note: Email contacts are preferred. Thank you.